

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1 (Currently amended):        A method for mapping a tag in a markup language (ML) document to a class using namespaces, comprising:

analyzing a tag in the ML document;

referencing a definition file location attribute in the ML document, wherein the definition file location attribute is identified by the tag related to the tag;

retrieving a definition file from a location identified by associated with the definition file location attribute, wherein the definition file includes a list of common language runtime namespaces, wherein each common language runtime namespace includes a list of common language classes associated with the common language runtime namespace;

referencing a common language runtime namespace related to the tag within the definition file to determine the common language runtime class associated with the tag; and

locating the common language runtime class in an assembly such that the tag is mapped to the common language runtime class.

2 (original):    The method of Claim 1, wherein analyzing a tag further comprises analyzing the tags in linear order as listed in the ML document.

3 (Currently amended):        The method of Claim 1, wherein analyzing a tag further comprises reading a prefix corresponding to ~~the~~ an ML namespace related to the tag.

4 (original):    The method of Claim 3, further comprising defining the ML namespace using the prefix, wherein the prefix maps to an extensible markup language namespace, and wherein the definition file maps the extensible markup language namespace to a common language runtime namespace and the assembly.

5 (original):    The method of Claim 3, wherein the prefix is defined in the ML document.

6 (original): The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether the definition file is available locally in a cache, and if not available, storing the retrieved definition file in the cache.

7 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein retrieving a definition file further comprises retrieving the definition file from a network location specified by definition file location attribute.

8 (Currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein locating the common language runtime class in an assembly further comprises locating the common language runtime class in a dynamic link library, the dynamic link library comprising common language runtime classes of functions associated with the common language runtime namespace of the definition file.

9 (original): The method of Claim 1, further comprising generating the ML document, the ML document comprising the tag and the definition file location attribute.

10 (Currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein the definition file comprises a list of the common language runtime namespaces, schemas and assemblies associated with the common language runtime class related to the common language runtime namespace.

11 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the namespace of the definition file is associated with a property within an element of the ML document.

12 (Currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for mapping a tag in an ML document to a common language runtime class using common language runtime namespaces, the instructions comprising:

evaluating a tag in the ML document, wherein evaluating the tag comprises reading a prefix associated with ~~the~~ an ML namespace when the prefix is present;

detecting a definition file location attribute associated with the tag in the ML document;  
fetching a definition file from a location specified by the definition file location attribute,  
wherein the definition file includes a list of common language runtime namespaces, wherein  
each common language runtime namespace includes a list of common language classes  
associated with the common language runtime namespace;  
resolving a the common language runtime namespace related to the tag within the  
definition file to establish the common language runtime class associated with the tag; and  
finding an assembly that includes the common language runtime class such that the tag is  
mapped to the common language runtime class, wherein the assembly comprises common  
language runtime classes of functions associated with the common language runtime namespace.

13 (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 12,  
further comprising determining whether the definition file is available locally in a cache, and if  
not available, storing the fetched definition file in the cache.

14 (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 12,  
wherein the definition file is fetched from a network location.

15 (Currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 12,  
further comprising defining the ML namespace using the prefix, wherein the prefix maps to an  
extensible markup language namespace, and wherein the definition file maps the extensible  
markup language namespace to a common language runtime namespace and the assembly.

16 (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 12,  
wherein the assembly comprises a dynamic link library.

17 (Currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 12,  
wherein the definition file comprises a list of the common language runtime namespaces,  
schemas and assemblies associated with the common language runtime class related to the  
common language runtime namespace.

18 (Currently amended): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 12, wherein the common language runtime namespace of the definition file is associated with a property within an element of the ML document.

19 (Currently amended): A system for mapping a tag in an ML document to a common language runtime class using common language runtime namespaces, comprises:  
means for analyzing a tag in the ML document;  
means for referencing a definition file location attribute in the ML document, wherein the definition file location attribute is related to the tag;  
means for retrieving a definition file from a location specified by the definition file location attribute, wherein the definition file includes a list of common language runtime namespaces, wherein each common language runtime namespace includes a list of common language classes associated with the common language runtime namespace;  
means for referencing a common language runtime namespace related to the tag within the definition file to determine the common language runtime class associated with the tag; and  
means for locating the common language runtime class in an assembly such that the tag is mapped to the common language runtime class.

20 (Currently amended): The system of Claim 19, wherein the means for analyzing the tag reads a prefix associated with the an ML namespace when the prefix is present, wherein the prefix maps to an extensible markup language namespace, and wherein the definition file maps the extensible markup language namespace to a common language runtime namespace and the assembly.